

Projecting the population of a small area is much more difficult than for a larger area with more predictable components of change. Incomplete past data limited use of the computer for Madison; instead trend step-downs were used by township, shown in Map 5 and Appendix F, showing a projected increase of 23.8% for the Township. As a planning area, present Town limits do not include about 1,000 persons residing in an adjacent suburban ring. Given the present age-race-sex distribution and past economic change, a projection was made of the area from its present 2,900 to 3,500 in 1970 and to 4,100 by 1980. This assumes a constant area within which future annexations may occur. Not included is the possibility, although not for some considerable time, of a merger of Madison and Mayodan. There have been encouraging moves to pool resources efficiently and to cooperate in meeting common problems (e.g., their consolidated school system, chamber of commerce, etc.) Some consequences of projected future growth include:

--Increase in school-age population in the upper grades, but a leveling-off at earlier grades.

--Labor force: the post World War II 'baby boom' will soon begin moving out of the schools and into colleges, family formation, and the labor force. Therefore, either a large increase in available jobs must occur or outmigration will increase considerably within a few years.

--Retirement ages: The population over age sixty will nearly double by 1980; therefore community medical, housing, and recreation needs for the elderly must be expanded.

--Negro population: Although a slight increase in the Negro population is indicated, the proportion will drop considerably, due to high out-migration rates, leaving fewer young and middle-aged adults.

--Importance of the projection for planning: formulas for the past will be inadequate for the future without better control of the environment--of better-coordinated economic planning, of beneficial controls of land use, of more widespread education and skill levels toward new technology, and of higher and universally-shared standards of living. Concerted democratic planning by the community is a major tool for improvement of the trends analyzed in this report.